Implementation of Panchayati Raj

1777. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minsiter of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Panchayati Raj in different States has been delayed;

(b) if so, which are the States.

(c) when these constitutional obligations are to be fulfilled by the State Governments; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to implement the Panchayati Raj in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, all the States and UTs have either amended or brought in fresh legislation on Panchayati Raj to conform to these new Constitutional provisions. After passing the legislations, the States are required to constitute panchayats and take further action to give effect to the provisions of the state legislation on Panchayati Raj. Therefore all further action, like endowment of powers and functions, setting up of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission etc. have to be taken by the States in accordance with their state legislation.

Departmental Examination for Promotion

1778. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any exclusive provision for SCs and STs for conducting Departmental Examination for promotion from the Section Officer Grade to the Under Secretary Grade in the Central Secretariat Service;

(b) if so, whether such examinations have been held regularly during the last five years;

(c) the number of times these examiatnions have been conducted during the last five years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Secretriat Services (CSS) Rules and Regulations Provide for holding of a Limited Departmental Competitive Examination exclusively for the officers of SC/ST casegories to fill up the posts reserved for SC/ST catagory in the grade of Under Secretary, for which eligible officers are not available in the prescribed zone of consideration for regular promotions.

(b) to (d) Due to prolonged litigiation relating to the Seniority List of Section Officers, no regular promotion could be made to Grade 1 of CSS after the issue of 1986 panel. As the examination under reference is held to fill up the vacancies which are available after drawing the regular panels, there has been no occasion to participate in the exam, durign the last five year in so far'as CSS is concerned.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1779. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who voluntarily retired in the public sector as well as in private sector under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(b) what is the total amount paid to the workers on their retirement;